

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

The restriction and species election requirements in the above-referenced application have been received and reviewed. Claims 1-67 are currently pending in the above-referenced application. Claims 1-67 are subject to the restriction requirement, while claims 38-64 are subject to the species election requirement

With respect to the restriction requirement, the following groups of claims have been identified as being drawn to separate inventions:

Group I – claims 1-37 and 65-67, drawn to method, classified in class 438, subclass 106;
and

Group II – claims 38-64, drawn to 257, classified in class 257, subclass 666.

An election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute claims 1-37 and 65-67 of Group I.

As claims 38-64 will be withdrawn from consideration pursuant to this election, the election of species requirement is moot.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the Office on November 19, 2003 and the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements filed on May 3, 2004 and January 14, 2005, and respectfully request that the documents or other information referenced therein be made of record in the present application and that initialed copies of the PTO-1449 forms be returned to the undersigned attorney evidencing same.

Should any of the documents, or portions thereof, be unavailable to the Examiner for any reason, please contact the undersigned attorney, who will supply same immediately by facsimile or other suitable method of delivery.

Please note that Information Disclosure Statements were filed in the above-referenced application on November 19, 2003, May 3, 2004, and January 14, 2005, but that the undersigned

attorney has not yet received any indication that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement have been considered in the above-referenced application. It is respectfully requested that the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements of November 19, 2003, May 3, 2004, and January 14, 2005, be considered and made of record in the above-referenced application and that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A that accompanied these Information Disclosure Statements be returned to the undersigned attorney as evidence of such consideration.

If any of the documents or any portion thereof is not available to the Office, the undersigned attorney would be happy to supply a copy thereof to the Office.

CONCLUSION

An early and favorable action on the merits of claims 1-37 and 65-67 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Brick G. Power
Registration No. 38,581
Attorney for Applicants
TRASKBRITT, PC
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: 801-532-1922

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